



Diocese of
Green Bay

Synod on Synodality

Top Themes + Diocesan Response

Five themes across local, regional, national, and continental reports and our diocesan response/efforts

Theme I

Enduring wounds that afflict the People of God in the United States, the still-unfolding effects of the sexual abuse crisis.

Response:

- Regional listening sessions, Healing Masses, and Bishop Ricken's Seven Action Steps to Accountability
- Continuous prevention via Safe Environment, VIRTUS, and online reporting

Theme II

Wound of polarization and marginalization of diverse communities – division in the church – including youth, mental health, racial, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.

Response:

- Open Wide Our Hearts photo exhibit, which provided the opportunity to listen to voices and facilitate conversations about issues of race, diversity, discrimination, and inclusion within our church
- Mental Health Awareness Training
- Crisis & Community Response Team – VOADs (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster) at the county level
- Telehealth Services Partnerships – reaching more people in need (those without access to internet)
- Cultural Diversity & Human Dignity diocesan training

- V National Encuentro process and gathering
- Formation for parish ministers experiencing spiritual, emotional, and mental exhaustion
- Future listening sessions for refugees and other marginalized groups

Theme III

Ongoing formation for Mission – life-long spiritual, pastoral, and catechetical formation as disciples as well as Sacramental life and the Eucharist as central – more profound formation desired.

Response:

- Entrust - Disciples on Mission retreats
- Worship Jesus Years
- Discipleship Support Sessions
- Christ, Communication & Coffee virtual sessions
- Parish Webinars and Parish Lifeline sessions
- Ongoing formation on impactful homilies

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Theme IV

Inclusion and welcoming – Perception is that doctrine, rules, and regulations are prioritized over people and lived reality. Desire for a church that meets people where they are in a non-superior, non-judgmental way. Radical inclusion, shared belonging, and deep hospitality.

Response:

- Listening sessions and local focus groups, audiences included Engaged Catholics, Connected, Disconnected, and non-Catholics in all regions of the diocese
- Corpus Christi processions made up of clergy, lay people, families, Catholic groups organizations
- Upcoming content series to educate on core Catholic beliefs and deepening of the faith
- Hospitality resources developed from the Office of Evangelization, Youth & Young Adults

Information compiled by the **Office of the Chancellor**.
Infographic from www.synod.va.

Theme V

Deep and energetic desire for renewed forms of leadership – priestly, episcopal, religious, and lay. A hunger for good and holy priests and religious. Respectful co-responsibility that recognizes the role of hierarchy and pastors.

Response:

- Diocesan Vocations Goal - By 2025 we will call forth and form 30 seminarians to be missionary leaders in the priesthood; experiencing good progress toward that goal.
- Priests and deacons embarked upon an on-going and all-encompassing formation program.
- Young Adult listening sessions across the diocese
- “Gather in Joy” discipleship seminar with over 900 gathered; practiced synodal listening and gathered responses
- The Family Ministry Project
- Intentional content for annual Clergy Congress
- Vicariate listening sessions/ongoing meetings
- Planning for future leadership development

October 2023: Methodology for the First Session of the Synodal Assembly

THE QUESTION

The Assembly addresses the **overarching question of the Synod**: How does this “journeying together,” which takes place today on different levels (from the local level to the universal one), allow the Church to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the mission entrusted to Her; and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church? (Cfr Preparatory Document n.2).

The work is **based on what emerged from listening to the People of God, as presented in the *Instrumentum Laboris*** and the previous documents.

THE PROCESS

The work of the Assembly develops as a prayerful pathway of spiritual discernment. The true protagonist is the Holy Spirit.

